

Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EA-02 ISO-00 ITFE-05 L-01 H-01 SCA-01 SCS-01

IO-02 IGA-01 INR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 SS-02

EB-02 /057 W

----- 070939

R 070211Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5709

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPACREP GUAM

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LIMDIS

AIDAC

FROM RCMO FOR RCMO SINGAPORE

GUAM FOR NORMAN SWEET, SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR IATF

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BGEN, CPRS, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA-PROPERTY LOSS CLAIM, SOUTHEAST ASIS AIR
TRANSPORT, INC (SEAT).

REF: STATE 156198

1. SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON REFTEL FOLLOWS:

A. MR PETERSON HAS NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE WHETHER SEAT WAS EVER
TOLD TO TERMINATE OPERATION IN CAMBODIA. OF IF THEY DID, IN
FACT, HAVE A ROLE IN THE MISSION EVACUATION PLANS.

B. AVIATION FUEL FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT WAS CONTROLLED AND
ALLOCATED BY TELA KHMER WITHIN AN OVERALL ALLOCATION PROVIDED
BY THE EMBASSY. MR PERTERSON WAS IN NOW WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE ALLOCATION OF THIS FUEL TO TELA KHMER. MR PETERSON DID
NOTRECEIVE A REQUEST FROM SEAT FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTANING

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FUEL. HOWEVER, HE DID ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL, NAME UNKNOWN,

TO GET IN TOUCH WITH TELA KHMER REGARDING THE PRUCHASE OF A SMALL QUNAITY FO FUEL FOR A TWO OR FOUR SEAT AIRCRAFT OF AN UNKNOWN TYPE. THIS INDIVIDUAL SPOKE DIRECTLY BY PHONE TO AN UNKONOWN INDIVIDUAL AT TELA KHMER AND MADE PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO PRUCHASE NEEDED FUEL. A KHMER WOMAN, SAID TO BE HIS WIFE, THEN SPOKE OVER THE PHONE IN KHMER TO ARGUE ABOUT THE PRICE TO BE PAID FOR THE FUEL. THIS INDIVIDUAL THEN SHOWED MR PETERSON A US HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL WHICH HE INDICATED HE WOULD USE TO PAY FOR THE FUEL. MR PETERSON HAS NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE WHETEHER THIS UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL DID, IN FACT, PURCHASE THE FUEL OR IF HE DID, IN FACT, FLY HIS AIRCRAFT OUT OF PHNOM PENH.

C. CIVIL AIRCRAFT COMPANIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING THEIR OWN FLIGHT CLEARENCE FROM THE KHMER DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION. MR PETERSON DID NOT RECIEVE A REQUEST FROM SEAT, ON MAY 9, FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTANING A FLIGHT CLEARENCE. THE ONLY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SEAT WAS SOME WEEKS EARLIER WHEN USAID CHARTERED A SEAT AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT A NUMBER OF VEHICLES FROM SIAGON TO PHNOM PENH. AT THIS TIME MR PETERSON DID WRITE A LETTER TO THE KHMER DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION TO INDICATE USAID TRIP CHARTER OF SEAT AIRCRAFT. MR ROBERT M. FERGUSON REQUESTED THAT MR PETERSON WRITE THIS LETTER SO THAT THE KHMER DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION WOULD TAKE FASTER ACTION REGARDING HIS COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARENCE.

D. MR PETERSON REMEMBERS MEETING MR ROBERT FERGUSON IN HIS OFFICE A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE COURSE OF THE USAID TRIP CHARTER OF A SEAT AIRCRAFT SOME WEEK PRIOR TO MAY 9, HE ALSO MET A GENTLEMAN SAID TO BE THE FATHER OF MR ROBERT M. FERGUSON. MR PETERSON HAS NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF SEAT OPERATIONS, NEVER VISITED THEIR COMPANY OFFICES, AND NEVER BOARDED ANY OF THEIR AIRCRAFT. MR PETERSON DOES NOT REMEMBER IF HE MET A MR WROTEN.

2. COLONEL D ROYSDEN WAS THE AIR ATTACHE FOR THE US EMBASSY, PHNOM PENH, ON MAY 9, 1975 AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORE GENERAL BACKGROUND ON LOCAL PROCEDURES REQUIRED OF KHMER CIVIL AIRCRAFT COMPANIES FOR SECURING FLIGHT CLEARENCE.

3. DECONTROL 7/7/76.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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